



TOWN OF NORTH ANDOVER
FINANCE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes for Public Hearing
Meeting Date: 19 Feb 2009

Meeting Location: Town Hall, Second
Floor BOS Conference Room

Meeting Called to order: 6:30PM

FinCom Members in Attendance

Douglas Swatski-DS, Chairman

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Jim Gordon-JG

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Mark Rodgers-MR, Vice Chairman

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Ben Osgood-BO

☒

Peter Besen-PB

☒

Jean Sullivan-JS

☒

Melinda Coppa-MC

☐

Alan Lebovidge-AL

☐

Ramsey Bahrawy

☒

Herb Cunha-HC, Minutes

☐

Non FinCom Members in Attendance

OTHERS: Mark Rees-MRees, Town Manager
Members of the School Department & School Committee

II. Previous Minutes Approved

DATE:

Made:

VOTE:

Seconded:

Unanimous

Yes

No

Abstention

Note:

III. New Business – Town Manager's FY10 Budget Presentation

AGENDA ITEM: A MRees gave his budget presentation for FY10

Discussion: MRees: the budget represents a .37% increase over FY09 far less than needed to be level funded if wages increase at all. The town/school split represents the same percent split from the prior year.

MRees stated that the purchasing manager has been a success, saving the town triple his salary in the first 11 months on the job.

Public comments:

Sandy Gleed had questions for the Fin com:

- What is the documentation for the make up of our negative free cash position?
- How is the deficit covered and how was it created?

- Look at the recycling and trash numbers, they provide no boost in FY10 when single stream recycling should be lowering our trash bill and increasing revenues from recycling.
- What are the impact statements from the different town departments on dept cuts?
- What will the impact be on the Sr Center, youth center and library?

AGENDA ITEM: A

Discussion:

II. Motion to close the Public Hearing

DATE:	2/19/09	Made: RB
VOTE:		Seconded: PB
Unanimous	Passed	
Yes	6	
No	-	
Abstention	-	

AGENDA ITEM: B Debt Exclusion Override language for CIP Warrant Article

Discussion: BO gave his report about his proposed article. It is a very complex issue. The town should have the option to do a debt exclusion override for each CIP item over \$500,000. It would need a 2/3rds vot and Bond council writes language. When Bond council writes the language he needs to be directed to write the article to cover a debt exclusion override. BOS must direct council on how to craft the language.

JG asked if Fincom should have our own council to craft the language.
MRees noted that council protects Bond holders and the town.

BO read his article.

Sandy Gleed had a different approach. She would require the BOS to vote on funding method. Then town would vote for the project then take a separate vote on how to fund.

AGENDA ITEM: C New Business: PB suggested that we change the format of the current budget in the town warrant to provide greater detail. MRees suggested that greater detail would detract from the ability of the professionals in the town to manage the budget and allow town meeting to get bogged down in detail discussions that in the past have not been productive.

IV. Next Meetings

26 Feb 09, Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room

05 Mar 09, Joint meeting with BOS, Town Hall 2nd floor BOS Conf Rm

Old Business/Non-Agenda Items

NON-AGENDA ITEM:

Discussion:

V. Adjournment

Motion: JG

Unanimous

Seconded: RB

Time: 8:30 PM